

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 573-578**

**Topic: Public Service Efficiencies**

**Written: 17 June 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

573. Please provide details of the amended operational efficiencies your agency will make as per the 2013-14 Budget Measure 'Public Service efficiencies' (see 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 2, page 108).
574. In addition, please provide the following detail:
- a. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by implementing more efficient management structures, through a reduction in expenditure on staff across the Executive Level (EL) 1 and 2, and Senior Executive Service (SES) levels?
  - b. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by revising down the occupational density target for all new leases, buildings and major fit-outs undertaken by agencies from 16 square metres per occupied workpoint down to 14 square metres?
575. Has there been a reduction in business flights?
- a. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
576. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors?
- a. Has this impacted on the department/agency, and how?
  - b. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
577. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online.
- a. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why?
  - b. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
578. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs?
- a. If not, why not?
  - b. Have printing costs increased, and if yes, why and by how much?
  - c. Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not be achieved, why not?
  - d. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

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**Answer:**

573. The ABS' Expense Appropriations have been reduced by \$10.047 million over 5 years to 2016-17 since the 2012-13 Budget.

These reductions have arisen from the savings announced by the Australian Government on 25 September 2012 (*Making the Australian Public Service more efficient*).

The ABS continuously monitors and evaluates its operations, projects and priorities to ensure effective and efficient achievement of its deliverables. This forms part of the ABS' ongoing corporate governance framework.

574.

- a. Please refer to Finance's response to question F10 from Finance and Public Administration Committee.
- b. The estimated savings for each year and over the forward estimates relating to the revision of square metres per occupied workpoint have not been quantified as yet. Note that the ABS is not entering into any new leases in 2013/14.

575. Yes. The number of business flights has reduced by 45% since February 2013.

- a. The ABS does not estimate savings down to the level requested over the forward estimates.

576. Yes.

- a. No.
- b. The ABS does not estimate savings down to the level requested over the forward estimates.

577.

- a. The ABS has fully implemented the government guidelines on non-campaign recruitment advertising. All recruitment advertising is online except for rural interviewer positions, indigenous positions and where it has been difficult to attract a suitable field of candidates, for example some SES positions.
- b. The ABS does not estimate savings down to the level requested over the forward estimates.

578. (a-d)

The printing costs of the ABS fluctuate with the cycles of survey programs. The ABS is moving toward increased use of e-forms for data collection rather than printed forms. The ABS does not estimate savings down to the level requested over the forward estimates.